

Title: The Jukan Traditions II

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The Blessed Halls of Honor

Every Jukan has their story to tell, and every Jukan who has lived a life of Honor will have their Life Song sung to the Blessed Halls of Honor as they pass from this world into the Embrace of the Great Mother. The Blessed Halls of Honor were built in dedication to the Honor of the Jukan clans and to respect the sacrifices made in the name of the Great Mother and all of Jukankind. The Great Halls of Honor hold the Life Songs of all Jukans that have died after leading an honorable life, and enshrined within are mementos of those who have died. The Blessed Halls of Honor are a sacred place, and no fighting shall ever occur in or on its grounds, on punishment of dishonor and death.

The Life Song

The Rites of the Life Song hold an important place for those Jukans who join the ranks of the honored dead. The Life Song is an outpouring of emotion, respect, and sentiment towards the honored dead that must be performed with sincerity and in the singer's own words. The Life Song does not require words or any 'formal' music, provided

it is suitable for telling the story of the honored dead's life. It is this uniqueness of the Life Song that ensures that the honored dead's Life Song will echo throughout the Blessed Halls of Honor through eternity. It is common for a Jukan to appoint or request a close friend, companion, family member, or lover to sing their Life Song for them upon the embarkation of a dangerous mission or voyage. In the absence of a designated singer, someone close to the deceased will take up the duty and Honor of singing the Life Song to the Blessed Halls of Honor, and depositing their memento within.

Treatment of the Dead
Jukans who die with Honor either on the battlefield or elsewhere must be properly prepared and tended to so that they can pass into the embrace of the Great Mother without complications. In times of war or desperation the honored dead can be burned by funeral pyre with whatever is at hand, but if time is not of the essence the body should be prepared before its cremation. The preparation of the body requires it to be cleansed and bathed, but any scars or wounds that were incurred should be left uncovered; a Jukan's scars are part of their being and should not be hidden. A warrior's body should be burned wearing a robe of grey silk, carrying their weapon for battle, and with their

helm adorning their brow. Any other Jukan should be burned wearing a robe of grey silk with a grey silk scarf about their neck. If the Jukan was slain during a Black Duel, their weapon should be wrapped with a black scarf of silk. The body should be burned to ash and the ashes interred at the respective clan's tomb. Those announced to the Blessed Halls of Honor often have a memento left there in memoriam.

If a Jukan dies after leading a life of dishonor or has betrayed the duties of a warrior, then the Jukan deserves to neither be remembered nor treated as part of Jukankind. Instead their corpse shall be stripped bare and left as carrion to rot in disgrace and be picked apart by scavengers. A Jukan without Honor is less than an animal, and shall be treated as such, whose highest hope of duty is to fatten the bellies of bottom feeding scavengers. Any who die in such a way shall not be referred to as Jukan or as belonging to any clan, and their name shall be stricken from the birth records.